

State of Rhode Island – Department of Revenue  
Division of Property Valuation (Municipal Affairs)

STATE MANDATES

Report required pursuant to Section 45-13-8 (b) of the Rhode Island General Laws

**Peder Schaefer, Chief Budget Analyst – Division of Property Valuation (Municipal Affairs)**  
**Gerard Michaud, State Aid Specialist – Division of Property Valuation (Municipal Affairs)**  
**Joseph Coduri – Supervisor Local Government Assistance – State Planning – Department of  
Administration**

December 31, 2007

## **Introduction**

Section 45-13 -8 of the Rhode Island General Laws relating to state mandates on municipalities reads as follows:

(b) The department of administration shall annually by January 1 issue a report identifying the state's mandates established during the preceding July 1 – June 30 period and stating the cost by city and town of all state mandates established after January 1, 1979, for the next preceding July 1 – June 30 period. The department of administration shall annually issue to cities and towns a comprehensive listing of all state mandates established after January 1, 1979.

This report is responsive to the above statutory requirement.

- Part 1 identifies those new mandates enacted during the July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007 period which meet the qualifying test for being designated as “application eligible” state mandates.
- Part 2 reports on the cost by city and town of all state mandates during the period July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006.
- Part 3 provides a cumulative updated list of all “application eligible” state mandates enacted since January 1, 1979. This third part will also be posted as a separate document at the Division’s website [www.muni-info.state.ri.us](http://www.muni-info.state.ri.us) and will replace the previous report covering the period January 1, 1979 to June 30, 2006.

### **Part 1 – New Mandates – July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007**

The Office of Local Government Assistance in the Division of Planning of the Department of Administration conducted a search of municipal related legislation enacted during the 2007 General Assembly to identify legislation which might qualify as a “state mandate”. The Division of Property Valuation (Municipal Affairs) also surveyed regulatory Boards and Agencies to determine whether there were any recently enacted rules or regulations by these Boards which would or could have resulted in a state mandate.

We would note that there were several acts that while action by the General Assembly occurred on or prior to June 30, 2007, the actual effective date resulting from normal transmission and response time by the Governor’s Office was shortly after June 30. We included those Acts in our review since those that qualify will be reimbursement eligible from the effective date and thereafter. There were also four enactments which resulted from overrides of gubernatorial vetoes approved by the October 2007 special session of the General Assembly. These four acts were also included in our review.

To qualify as an “application eligible” mandate certain criteria need to be met to determine qualification. The following is a coded qualification table and the statutory language specifying qualification criteria.

1. **Not material (\$500 Application).** 45-13-7 (4) provides that mandates costing less than \$500 shall not be reimbursable. We have concluded that a mandate is not reimbursable if the costs associated with it are clearly not material.
2. **Affect on Revenue – Not Cost.** Mandate reimbursements are for costs mandated by the state. A state measure which limits the ability of a municipality to raise revenue is not an eligible mandate.
3. **Specifically excluded by law.** Some state statutes which might otherwise have been mandate eligible were specifically excluded from eligibility in the applicable act.
4. **Excluded by 45-13-10.** 45-13-10 specifically excludes certain kinds of state mandated costs from reimbursement. We have attached 45-13-10 in its entirety to the end of this section.
5. **Cost Savings to municipality.** Some of the statutes initially identified as mandates may in fact offer opportunity for cities and towns to save money.
6. **Not applicable.** After careful review, it was clear that certain statutes initially identified as potential mandates do not in any way result in additional municipal costs.
7. **Partially reimbursed (all education mandates).** 45-13-7 provides for eligible reimbursement “...where the expenditures are not otherwise reimbursed in whole or in part.” Education costs may currently be construed as partially reimbursed and therefore not eligible as mandates. The amendments effective January 1, 2007 removed the “partially reimbursed” language and the enactments relating to education were reviewed for eligibility.
8. **One time cost mandate.** There have been occasions when the state has mandated a one time cost to cities and towns. If that mandate applied to a period other than July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007, it would not be an eligible mandate for determination at this hearing.

**§ 45-13-10 Exemptions from reimbursement.** – (a) State mandates not subject to reimbursement includes:

- (1) The holding of elections;
- (2) The assurance of due process;
- (3) The notification and conduct of public meetings;
- (4) The procedures for administrative and judicial review of actions taken by cities and towns;
- (5) The protection of the public from malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance by local government officials;
- (6) Financial administration, including the levy, assessment, and collection of taxes; and
- (7) The preparation and submission of reports necessary for the efficient administration of state laws.

(b) All statutes having a fiscal impact on cities and towns shall include a provision stating whether these statutes conform to the definition and exemptions prescribed by §§ 45-13-7 – 45-13-10.

(c) Provided further that none of the provisions of §§ 45-13-7 – 45-13-10 are applied in a manner inconsistent with state law.

The following is a list of 2007 enactments (including those referenced above with a final disposition after July 1). In the right hand column, we have recorded the determination by a review team in the Division of Property Valuation as to whether the Act qualified as an eligible state mandate. Gray shaded enactments have been determined to be not eligible for mandate reimbursement.

Chapter	Description	Title	Section	RIGL	Code
73 Article 43	Requires local school districts to certify that their food service providers are supplying locally-growth farm products for purposes of an income tax credit.	44	30	44-30-27	2
80 & 92	Requires all high schools that sell or distribute food and beverages to sell only healthier food and beverages.	16	21	16-21-7	2
159 & 275	Requires local building officials to reject applications or issue a building permit within 60 calendar days.	23	27.3	23-27.3-114.1	4
161 & 283	Requires city and town councils to give additional notice under the "subdivision of plan" and "zoning" chapters of the general laws.	45 45	23 24	45-23-42 45-24-53	4
168 & 423	Requires all school buses in the future (2010) to have a certain type of emergency brake with an interlock system.	31	23	31-23-42.2	6
177 & 219	Requires all school buses and vehicles used to haul waste to be equipped so as to reduce diesel emissions.	31	47.3		6
185 & 207	Requires school buses to have certain equipment and other vehicle standards.	31	22.1		5
73 Article 30	Requires wastewater treatment facilities to collect a septage disposal fee.	46	12.11		1, 2
234	Requires every public school to have 2 evacuation drills and 2 lockdown drills included among the mandatory 15 drills.	16	21	16-21-4	6
241	Requires all Ride buses to be installed with passenger security cameras when federal funds become available.	39	18	39-18-4.1	6
243 & 284	Allows a police officer or firefighter to collect a salary when incapacitated due to rendering emergency assistance <b>whether on duty or off duty</b> .	45	19	45-19-1	
255 & 291	Requires local fire authorities who perform smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector plan review to change certain fees with limits. ("No more than").	23	28.1	23-28.1-2	2
287 & 490	Requires each school district to incorporate dating violence education into the curriculum and to provide dating violence training to all administrators, teachers, nurses, and mental health staff at middle and high schools.	16	22	16-22-24	6

304	This act would require schools to place notices in various conspicuous places advising that there was a student in the school who has an allergy to peanuts/treenuts and prohibit the sale of such products.	16	21	16-21-31	1,2
305 & 447	This act would prevent cities and towns from assessing and/or collecting a development impact fee prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy.	45	22.4	45-22.4-5	2
308 & 430	This act mandates specific monetary penalties for some violations of the vicious dog statute.	4	13.1	4-13.1-9	2
339 & 407	This act requires local school committees to deal with violations regarding possession or use of alcohol, drugs, or weapons on a case-by-case basis.	16	21	16-21-21.1	4
370	This act requires that any net interest savings resulting from school refunding bonds shall be allocated between the community and the state by applying the school housing aid ratio that would otherwise apply in connection with school housing projects of the community.	16	7	16-7-41 16-7-44	2
371	This act prevents cities and towns where video lottery terminals are authorized from seeking to prevent the installation and use of these terminals.	42	61.2	42-61.2-11	6
382 & 406	This act requires local school districts which send special education students to a charter public school to reimburse the charter public school on the basis of the average per public special education cost of the sending district.	16	77	16-77-6	
384	This act requires that local boards of canvassers no longer need to notify the Secretary of State of a new registration or the cancellation of a former registration; but must now retain the original registration card.	17	9.1	17-9.1-17	4
391	This act in effect would reduce the amount of funds available to cities and towns for conducting environmental studies related to energy facilities.	42	98	42-98-9.1	2
400	This act would require local board of canvassers to recognize all political parties at local voting places regarding such matters as local party checkers and runners.	17 17	15 19	17-15-22 17-19-22	4
417	This act requires local probate courts to maintain a list of persons deemed qualified to serve as guardians ad litem; and must appoint from that list on a rotating basis. The act also requires a new process regarding court awarded fees which shall not exceed \$400.	33	15	33-15-7	1,4
433	This act mandates that a member of a public body who has a disability and cannot attend meetings now may participate by use of electronic or telephonic communication.	42	46	42-46-5	1,4

498 & 513	This act requires police officers issuing citations solely for failure to provide evidence of financial responsibility to hold the citation for at least one business day before submission to the traffic tribunal, and if evidence is then provided to withdraw the citation.	31	47	31-47-12	4
501 & 511	This act provides that local licensing authorities do not have to give notice by advertisement when a local license holder applies for a temporary seasonal expansion of an existing local liquor license.	3	5	3-5-17	5
510	This act requires cities and towns to provide domestic partners of teachers, firefighters, police officers and municipal employees with certain pension, death, and other retirement benefits currently available to spouses of such employees.	16 45	16 19	45-19	
524	This act requires a different matter of assessing time-share estates. It also requires tax assessor notices of assessment and bills for taxes to be furnished to the managing entity or to each time-share owner.	34	41	34-41-1.03	4

In conclusion, the review team determined that three of the 29 acts reviewed met all of the tests to be “eligible for application” as state mandates for the next cycle of reimbursement applications. There were also an additional two enactments (relating to school buses) that while they may eventually qualify included dates for compliance (and associated costs) which were for a later period.

We also identified one “rule and regulation” enacted by the Board of Regents relating to “School Construction” which was voted on in May of 2007 and which became a final regulation in the summer of 2007.

Board of Regents School Construction Regulations	This regulation establishes standards, procedures and limitations on school districts applying for new school construction including limitations on the scope of the proposed project and reimbursement by the state for completed projects.	16	7 60		
--	--	----	---------	--	--

With regards to this regulation, we believe it is possible that new administrative costs associated with the application process may qualify as mandate “application eligible”; however, any restrictions on approved projects or state reimbursement would not be eligible since this would affect revenues (state reimbursement) not cost (See code 2).

## **Part 2 –Qualifying Mandated Costs – July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006**

In February of 2007, a public hearing was held at which time an updated list of qualifying state mandates was presented and certified. On March 16, this office distributed a complete list of qualifying mandates and application forms to the chief financial officer of each municipality. Although the

application date had been set statutorily as April 1 of each year, this office granted an extension to June 1. The complete statutory language is as follows:

Cities and towns shall submit to the department of administration in any form that may be established by the department, a report of the cost of each state mandate established after January 1, 1979, to the city or town. The reports shall be submitted by April 1 each year and shall state costs incurred by the city or town during the preceding July 1 – June 30 period.

As of June 1, this Office had received applications for mandate reimbursement from 10 of the 39 cities and towns in the state. We reviewed the applications and transmitted on October 1, 2007 a communication to the budget officer reporting pursuant to 45-13-9 (a) on the cost of eligible state mandates incurred in the fiscal year 2006 period. A revised communication was forwarded to the budget officer on October 18 which moderately modified the October 1 communication by incorporating additional follow up information received from applicant communities.

**§ 45-13-9 Reimbursement to cities and towns and school districts for the costs of state mandates.** – (a) The department of administration shall submit to the budget office by October 1 of each year, a report by each city and town, of the cost of state mandates established after January 1, 1979, to be reimbursed for the next preceding July 1 – June 30 period.

The critical part of that communication read as follows:

“The amount requested for reimbursement from those 10 municipalities totaled \$1,676,089.19. The OMA reviewed each application and disqualified \$546,604.52 in applications leaving a balance eligible for reimbursement of \$1,129,484.67. These amounts are revised from my initial report to you based upon additional information provided by two communities.

The most significant eligible applications were for fire safety improvements (mandates 62 and 64) in municipal buildings in the Cities of Cranston and Newport. Both cities provided extensive documentation on costs incurred for these improvements. If reimbursement appropriations are made for this purpose, OMA believes an audit should be made to confirm that the documented expenses were exclusively for fire safety purposes.”

The amounts approved as eligible for reimbursement by municipality are as follows:

State Mandates - FY 2006 Expense - FY 2009 Reimburse

	Received	Amount Requested	Amount Disallowed	Amount Approved
BARRINGTON	5/31/2007	\$ 18,691.28	\$ -	\$ 18,691.28
BRISTOL				
BURRILLVILLE				
CENTRAL FALLS				
CHARLESTOWN				
COVENTRY				
CRANSTON	6/5/2007	\$ 763,170.01	\$ 296,307.81	\$ 466,862.20

	Received	Amount Requested	Amount Disallowed	Amount Approved
EXETER				
FOSTER				
GLOCESTER				
HOPKINTON				
JAMESTOWN				
JOHNSTON				
LINCOLN				
LITTLE COMPTON				
MIDDLETOWN	5/30/2007	\$ 9,371.22		\$ 9,371.22
NARRAGANSETT				
NEWPORT	5/24/2007	\$ 485,012.85	\$ 31,974.74	\$ 453,038.11
NEW SHOREHAM				
NORTH KINGSTOWN	5/1/2007	\$ 138,192.27	\$ 122,229.12	\$ 15,963.15
NORTH PROVIDENCE				
NORTH SMITHFIELD				
PAWTUCKET	5/24/2007	\$ 60,556.52	\$ 42,795.97	\$ 17,760.55
PORTSMOUTH	5/23/2007	\$ 27,994.91	\$ 10,548.15	\$ 17,446.76
PROVIDENCE				
RICHMOND				
SCITUATE				
SMITHFIELD	5/23/2007	\$ 82,545.77	\$ 28,128.13	\$ 54,417.64
SOUTH KINGSTOWN	6/13/2007	\$ 18,212.86	\$ 12,540.60	\$ 5,672.26
TIVERTON				
WARREN				
WARWICK				
WESTERLY	5/21/2007	\$ 72,341.50	\$ 2,080.00	\$ 70,261.50
WEST GREENWICH				
WEST WARWICK				
WOONSOCKET				
TOTAL		\$ 1,676,089.19	\$ 546,604.52	\$ 1,129,484.67



The reasons for disallowing certain parts of an application are as follows:

**State Mandates - Disallowed**

<b>CRANSTON</b>	11 & 32	Mandate excludes training, medical, and physical fitness requirements. Deduction is for items related to above.	\$	45,125.00
	21	Mandate allows reimbursement for second year of health insurance coverage for employees on workers comp. Request was for first year of coverage.	\$	4,115.68
	50	City has provided full costs of vendor selected through process. It is OMA's interpretation of the statute that only administrative costs of following the selection procedures are eligible for reimbursement.	\$	247,067.13
<b>NEWPORT</b>	13	Mandate only applies to rescue workers.	\$	31,974.74
<b>NORTH KINGSTOWN</b>	26	Multiplication error reduces eligible amount to \$4,320.	\$	38,880.00
	62 & 64	Request for reimbursement was for 3 staff members. No documentation was provided that indicated that these staff were added in response to the amended act.	\$	83,349.10
<b>PAWTUCKET</b>	21	Mandate allows reimbursement for second year of health insurance coverage for employees on workers comp. Request was for first year of coverage.	\$	42,795.97
<b>PORTSMOUTH</b>	21	Mandate allows reimbursement for second year of health insurance coverage for employees on workers comp. Request was for first and second year of coverage. Approved amount just second year.	\$	10,548.15
<b>SMITHFIELD</b>	32	Mandate excludes training, medical, and physical fitness requirements. Deduction is for items related to above.	\$	28,128.13
<b>SOUTH KINGSTOWN</b>	2	Mandate is for Masters only. SK request was for all degrees.	\$	12,540.60

**WESTERLY**

48

Documentation not satisfactory to confirm mandate expenses.

\$ 2,080.00

Total Disallowed

\$ 546,604.50

In summary, the dollar value of state mandated costs eligible for reimbursement by the state in FY 2009 as reported to the state budget officer is \$ 1,129,484.67. This amount would be subject to appropriation by the state and there can be no assurance that such appropriation will be made.

### **Part 3 – Application Eligible State Mandates – 1979 – 2007**

The following table merges the updates resulting from enactments and regulations occurring in FY 2007 with previous recorded application eligible mandates.

#### **State Mandates Eligible for Reimbursement 1979 to 2007**

<b>Man date #</b>	<b>YEAR</b>	<b>PUBLIC LAW CHAPTER</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>GENERAL LAW REFERENCE</b>
1	1979	79-93 90-298	Damage done by dogs – city or town must pay	4-13-20
2	1979	79-296 90-338	Educational incentive pay – law enforcement tuition reimbursement for masters or juris doctorate	42-28.1
3	1979	79-299	Domestic steel – municipality must use domestic steel if domestic product is within 15% of imported.	37-2.1
4	1979	79-317	Publication of Ordinances – Requires distribution of printed municipal ordinances to the state library.	45-6-7
5	1979	79-86 91-252&326	List of Tax Exemptions – Requires distribution of available tax exemptions to residents.	44-3-19
6	1979	79-383	Historic cemeteries – signage for historical cemeteries	23-18-10.1
7	1979	79-68	Minimum wage – municipal cost increases associated with state mandated changes in minimum wage.	28-12-3 28-12-5
8	1982	82-359	Wetlands Act – costs associated with training eligible for reimbursement.	23-27.3-12
9	1983	83-18	Hazardous substances – costs associated with maintaining lists of hazardous substances.	28-21
10	1984		Point source discharges – potential user fees charged to municipal sewer treatment plants.	46-12-4
11	1984	84-327	Occupational health and safety for firefighters – see 88-542.	23-28.4

12	1986	86-68	Cancer benefits for firefighters – net costs of salary and benefits paid for firefighters and retired firefighters with cancer.	45-19.1
13	1986	86-69	Firefighters arbitration – costs of the arbitration associated with rescue personnel and dispatchers.	28-9.1
14	1986	86-178	Reporting sexual misconduct – costs associated with collecting and transmitting information.	11-37-3.5
15	1986	86-252	Missing children – municipal costs associated with developing and maintaining a flagging system.	42-28.8
16	1986	86-277	Tax sales elderly – municipal costs associated with advising DEA on pending tax sales.	44-9-10
17	1986	86-288	Health and safety infectious diseases – municipal costs associated with advising public safety personnel of their exposure to infectious diseases.	23-28.36
18	1986	86-315	Minimum wage – Municipal cost differential between state and Federal minimum wage	28-12-3
19	1986	86-401	Special bus stops – municipal police costs associated bus stop review.	31-20-10.3
20	1986	86-492	Life insurance benefits – <b>now exempt.</b>	45-21-57
21	1987	87-242	Continuation of health insurance for employees on workers comp	28-33-44
22	1987	87-327	No birth registration fee for children born out of wedlock	23-3-10
23	1987	87-333	City or town must replace trees cut down.	2-15-6
24	1987	87-366	Requires municipalities to provide health benefits during parental leave.	28-48
25	1987	87-388	Maintain dog registry	4-13-4.1
26	1988	88-247	Police departments to conduct national criminal records check of child care personnel	16-48.1 & 40-13.2
27	1989	89-68	Increases types of municipal personnel eligible for collective bargaining.	28-9.4
28	1989	89-179	Municipal costs associated with appointment of special building officials.	23-27.3
29	1989	89-248	Municipal costs for those municipalities which had not previously observed Martin Luther King day as a holiday.	25-1-1
30	1989	89-417	Municipal costs associated with supplying legislators with copies of Ordinances.	45-6-1

31	1989	89-478	Health insurance coverage for infertility testing.	27-18-30
32	1990	90-388	Fire Department costs associated with NFPA 1500 planning and implementation.	23-28.4
33	1990	90-67	Notification costs that a resident has been transported by emergency vehicles.	23-4.1-14
34	1990	90-89,200,273	Notification costs associated with advising widowers of annuity eligibility.	45-19-4-12
35	1990	90-90	Additional weights and measure testing requirements.	47-2-3
36	1990	90-168	Health insurance coverage for mid-wife services.	27-18-31
37	1990	90-173	Costs of high speed pursuit plans.	31-12-6
38	1991	91-368	Police departments to conduct national criminal records check of employees hired by health department certified facilities.	23-17.4-27-30
39	1992	239	Requires those local public libraries, which receive state library aid, to prepare both a preservation plan and a disaster preparedness plan.	29-6-3
40	1992	385	This RI Land Development and Subdivision Review Enabling Act of 1992 requires every city and town to adopt land development and subdivision review regulations which comply with the provisions of this act.	45-23-25 to 45-23-74
41	1992	495	Requires any facility which employs a lifeguard, including those owned or maintained by a city or town, to maintain and provide an area which is not exposed to sunlight and must provide sunscreen or other physical protection to insure against overexposure to the sun.	23-22.5-13
42	1993	24	Any fines collected by the animal releasing agency must be transmitted to the city/town clerk, and how these monies may be spent is set forth.	4-19-19
43	1993	420	Cities/towns must use standard signs developed by the Coastal Resources Management Council to mark designated rights-of-way.	46-23-6
44	1994	81	Requires cities and towns to pass ordinances or administrative orders directing their appropriate departments and employees to exercise due care and caution while performing tasks of brush removal and cleaning in the area of stone walls and boundaries; and to repair any damage that they may have caused.	45-2-39
45	1995	188	Duties of public water suppliers include development of management plans and programs for billing and collection of charges.	46-15.4
46	1995	271	Policemen's arbitration – contractual provisions shall be continued in subsequent bargaining agreements unless party to the agreement proposes a change in writing during a designated time frame.	28-9.2-17

47	1996	378	Requires cities and towns to directly pay police officers who are working traffic details and to bill and be reimbursed by the withholding authority.	37-12-10
48	1997	193	Requires local police officers, who are involved in high speed pursuits, to submit written reports to be kept on file. Also requires the officer in charge to file a written report of the pursuit. Also requires local police departments to enact policies and procedures regarding high speed pursuits and to provide copies of these policies and procedures to the Attorney General's office.	31-27-4.2
49	1997	259	Requires cities and towns to supply and maintain 150 feet of rope and a lifesaving buoy at ponds and lakes located within their respective boundaries during designated times.	23-22.5-14
50	1998	276	This act requires local purchasing agents, when they determine that the city or town needs the services of a professional architect or engineer, to follow the qualification-based selection process for the procure-ment of architectural and engineering consulting services.	45-55-8.1
51	1999	236	Municipal buildings open to the public must provide baby changing tables in both the ladies' room and men's room.	23-27.3-701
52	1999	462	Political subdivisions must adopt regulations and zoning ordinances concerning any airport hazard areas within their jurisdiction.	1-3-5 1-3-8
53	1999	462	Establishes procedures that must be followed by political subdivisions when granting a permit to construct or change structures in an airport hazard area.	1-3-14
54	1999	195	Foreign domestic violence protection orders are to be given full faith and credit and enforced as if issued in this state, and the provision that limits enforcement in this state to no more than 20 days is repealed.	12-29-1.1 15-15-8
55	1999	494	Probate courts must, when 'Good Samaritan' guardianships are being sought, prepare all the forms necessary as part of the application process.	33-15-4.1
56	1999	346	All harbor masters are required to have training and education in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.	46-4-2
57	2000	247	Community water systems serving populations of 10,000 or more shall deliver a full copy of the Consumer Confidence Report to each household within water systems' service area.	46-13-18
58	2000	170	Each city/town must establish by local ordinance an emergency management agency.	30-15-12
59	2002	324/414	Under the annual post audit requirement the selection of auditors by the city/town is subject to the approval of the state auditor general.	45-10-4

60	2002	324/414	If the city/town fails to file the audit report the audit work-papers must be transmitted to the state auditor general.	45-10-5.2
61	2002	324/414	If the auditor issues a qualified opinion the chief financial officer of the city/town must prepare and submit a detailed corrective action plan and timetable.	45-10-6.1
62	2003	106/107	Comprehensive fire safety code act – which contains various amendments to the fire safety code, which provisions must be adhered to by local fire inspectors.	23-28.1 23-28.01
63	2003	309/327	All vehicles with fire apparatus plates must be annually inspected according to NFPA standards.	31-22-29
64	2004	220 & 225	Requires extensive amendments to the State Fire Code.	23-28.1
65	2004	203 & 208	Requires cities and towns to amend their comprehensive plans to conform with the state guide plan elements adopted or amended to effectuate G.L. 46-31 within one (1) year.	46-31-10
66	2004	3 & 4	Requires certain cities and towns to prepare a comprehensive plan housing element for low and moderate income housing	45-53-4
67	2004	286 & 324	Requires cities and towns to follow certain procedural requirements regarding affordable housing plans.	45-53-4
68	2005	314	Requires cities and towns to provide by ordinance for the notification to farmers (agricultural operations) regarding zoning and/or permitted uses of land used for farming, development rights, etc.	2-23.1-1 to 2-23.1-4
69	2005	293	Requires cities and towns to bring any pension benefits of employees on military leave into conformance with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.	36-5-3
70	2005	325 & 350	Requires all harbor masters to attend the Rhode Island Harbor Masters Training Academy.	46-4-2
71	2006	58/62	Local communities required to prepare emergency action plans for high hazard dams.	46-19-9
72	2006	246 – Art.4	Exemption for cities and towns from the 911 emergency telephone surcharge has been eliminated.	39-21.1-14
73	2006	364/446	A storm drainage system that is part of a small municipal separate storm sewer system must be inspected annually.	45-61.1-2
74	2007	243/284	Allows a police officer or firefighter to collect a salary when Incapacitated due to rendering emergency assistance whether on duty or off duty.	45-19-1
75	2007	382/406	Requires local school districts which send special education students to a charter public school on the basis of the average our student public special education cost of the sending district.	16-77-6

76	2007	510	Requires cities and towns to provide domestic partners of teachers, firefighters, police officers, and municipal employees with certain pension, death, and other retirement benefits currently available to spouses of such employees.	See 16-16-1 & 45-19 various
77	2007	Regents Regulation	Establishes standards, procedures and limitations on school districts applying for new school construction including limitations on the scope of the proposed project and reimbursement by the state for completed projects.	See 16-7 and 16-60